



AFT Connecticut  
AFT, AFL-CIO

Healthcare  
Higher Education  
Public Employees  
PSRP  
Teachers

**TESTIMONY**  
**SHARON M. PALMER**

**LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE**

**February 25, 2010**

Good afternoon, Senator Prague, Representative Ryan and members of the Committee. I am Sharon Palmer, President of AFT Connecticut, a diverse 28,000 member union representing professionals in both the public and private sector.

I would like today to remark briefly on several bills and put AFT Connecticut on record regarding our positions.

S.B. 63 An Act Mandating Employers to Provide Paid Sick Leave - AFT Connecticut strongly supports this bill even though we have very few members without paid sick leave. As a civilized, developed nation and state we need to catch up with the rest of the developed nations. America has the most productive workers in the world. People need to be able to take care of themselves and their families. In the big picture, we all benefit from that. Please support this bill.

H.B. 5202 An Act Concerning Telecommuting Options for State Employees - AFT Connecticut certainly supports the concept of telecommuting for state employees. We do, however, have concerns about leaving telecommuting and work-at-home programs out of the collective bargaining process.

Thank you for your time and the hearing opportunity.

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